TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 19, 1987 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended March 14 totaled an estimated 17.3 billion ton-miles, 2.2 percent below the corresponding week of 1986, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 11 weeks of 1987 was an estimated 182.0 billion ton-miles, down 2.1 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended March 14 totaled 388,160, down 1.1 percent from the corresponding week of last year, but 0.9 percent above the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were down 2.4 percent in the East and up 0.5 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 13 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. However, grain showed a gain of 6,742 cars (30.9 percent), while coal decreased by 11,685 cars (10.1 percent). Thirteen of the 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended March 7 totaled 99,208 trailers and/or containers, 1.0 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 10 weeks of the year was 930,789 trailers and/or containers, up 3.0 percent from 1986.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 3/14/87:

	Loadings in Week ended March 14, 1987		Change from Corresponding Week 1986			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	28,535	I	6,742	30.9	I	407	1.4
Other farm products	4,209	I	1,266	43.0	I	824	24.3
Metallic ores	15,353	D	70	0.5	I	1,463	10.5
Coal	104,067	D	11,685	10.1	D	504	0.5
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	11,548	D	435	3.6	I	168	1.5
Nonmetallic minerals	8,372	D	1,889	18.4	D	245	2.8
Grain mill products	11,314	I	569	5.3	I	186	1.7
Food and kindred products	11,090	D	122	1.1	D	75	0.7
Primary forest products	10,823	I	192	1.8	I	287	2.7
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,472	I	466	5.8	I	479	6.0
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,825	D	711	5.3	I	75	0.6
Chemicals and allied products	26,883	D	305	1.1	I	481	1.8
Petroleum products	4,573	I	122	2.7	D	159	3.4
Stone, clay and glass products	9,717	D	133	1.4	D	271	2.7
Coke	4,449	D	565	11.3	D	46	1.0
Metals and products	8,270	D	165	2.0	I	69	0.8
Motor vehicles and equipment	21,750	D	1,571	6.7	I	244	1.1
Waste and scrap materials	8,821	I	103	1.2	I	127	1.5
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,839	D	2,725	49.0	D	160	5.3
All other carloads	74,141	I	6,692	9.9	I	283	0.4
LCL traffic	109	D	19	14.8	D	6	5.2
Total Cars Loaded	388,160	D	4,243	1.1	I	3,627	0.9
Corresponding week of 1986	392,403						

	1987	1986	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (11 weeks)	4,050,243	4,104,205	D 1.3
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
10 Weeks ended March 7	164.7	168.1	D 2.0
Week ended March 14	17.3	17.7	D 2.2
11 Weeks cumulative	182.0	185.8	D 2.1

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